

What is claimed is:

1. An image processing device comprising:

5 extraction means for extracting a document  
block containing a specific image from among image data  
to be processed;

recognition means for recognizing character  
code from a character image within the document block;

10 reconstruction means for reconstructing the  
document block in a specific shape; and

15 layout means for laying out character code data  
corresponding to the character code recognized by the  
recognition means within the reconstructed document block.

20 2. An image processing device as claimed in  
claim 1, wherein the extraction means extracts a  
plurality of document blocks, and the reconstruction  
means arranges the plurality of extracted document blocks  
into a single block reconstructed to a specific shape.

25 3. An image processing device as claimed in  
claim 1, wherein the specific image includes a character  
image of a headline and a character image of body text  
corresponding to the headline.

4. An image processing device as claimed in  
claim 3, further comprising headline character  
arrangement means for arranging character code data  
corresponding to the character image of the headline at a  
5 specific position within the reconstructed document block.

5. An image processing device as claimed in  
claim 1, wherein the reconstruction means adjusts a  
vertical or horizontal dimension of the document block to  
a length approximating a natural integer multiple of a  
length of one column of multiple columns formed within  
the document block.

6. An image processing device as claimed in  
claim 1, further comprising file generation means for  
generating an electronic file storing the character code  
data laid out by the layout means.

7. An image processing device as claimed in  
claim 1, further comprising a printer for printing the  
character code data laid out by the layout means on a  
recording substrate.

8. An image processing device as claimed in  
claim 1, further comprising a reader for optically

reading an image of a document to obtain the image data  
to be processed.

5 9. A program for causing a computer to execute  
image processing comprising the steps of:

extracting a document block containing a  
specific image from among image data to be processed;

recognizing character code from a character  
image within the document block;

10 reconstructing the document block in a specific  
shape; and

laying out character code data corresponding to  
the recognized character code within the reconstructed  
document block.

5 10. A program as claimed in claim 9, wherein a  
plurality of document blocks are extracted at the step of  
extracting, and the plurality of extracted document  
blocks are arranged into a single block reconstructed to  
20 a specific shape at the step of reconstructing.

11. A program as claimed in claim 9, wherein  
the specific image includes a character image of a  
headline and a character image of body text corresponding  
25 to the headline.

12. A program as claimed in claim 11, wherein  
the image processing further comprises a step of  
arranging character code data corresponding to the  
character image of the headline at a specific position  
within the reconstructed document block.

13. A program as claimed in claim 9, wherein at  
the step of reconstructing a vertical or horizontal  
dimension of the document block is adjusted to a length  
approximating a natural integer multiple of a length of  
one column of multiple columns formed within the document  
block.

14. A program as claimed in claim 9, wherein  
the image processing further comprises a step of  
generating an electronic file storing the character code  
data laid out at the step of laying out.

15. A program as claimed in claim 9, wherein  
the image processing further comprises a step of printing  
on a recording substrate the character code data laid out  
at the step of laying out.

16. A program as claimed in claim 9, wherein the image processing further comprises a step of reading an image of a document to obtain the image data to be processed.

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17. An image processing method comprising the steps of:

extracting a document block containing a specific image from among image data to be processed;

10 recognizing character code from a character image within the document block;

reconstructing the document block in a specific shape; and

15 laying out character code data corresponding to the recognized character code within the reconstructed document block.